

Contrary to popular opinion there is a large Irish community in the Borough of Greenwich, numbering approximately 8,000 Irish born with over 25,000 people of Irish descent spread all over the Borough. As part of the activities of Anti-Racist year 1983 there was an obvious need to promote the image of Irish people in the area and in September of that year a public meeting was held organised by Greenwich Irish Anti-Racist Group entitled "A Day for the Irish in Greenwich" from this a steering committee was elected which now forms the Management Committee of the Irish in Greenwich Project.

Since then the committee has organised several social and cultural events in the Borough but its most important achievement has been its successful application for the funding of two full time workers to the GLC. The workers Mickey Kelly and Sarah Kelleher took up their posts in August of this year and now work from the Project's new office situated on the second floor of Greenwich Council for Racial Equality building at 115-123 Powis Street, Woolwich. The phone no. is 855 7191 Ext 30.

The aims of the Irish in Greenwich Project are:

- a) To promote the cultural and social awareness of Irish people.
- b) To combat racial discrimination, disadvantage and anti Irish racism.
- c) To create a greater awareness of Irish culture, literature and history.
- d) To campaign for a fair share of resources for the Irish in Greenwich.
- e) To develop new resources and co-ordinate existing resources.



meet the needs of the Irish Community in Greenwich.

- ) The Project endeavours to promote racial harmony and is non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

The aims in short are to provide for the needs and aspirations whatever shape they may take of the Irish Community. Membership is open to anyone supporting these aims and costs £1.00 for waged; 50p for unwaged and Pensioners; and £2.00 per family. This fee insures reduced admission to social and cultural events and a right to vote at Annual General Meeting. The Project intends to produce a regular Newsletter which will be free to its members.

Meetings take place every second Tuesday at 7.00pm in the office and the next meeting will be on 22nd October, all members are welcome as well as anyone wishing to join.

An Irish Pensioners Group has been recently formed to provide for the needs of the Irish elderly. Its chairperson is Jack Jordan.

They meet fortnightly on Monday afternoons from 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Their first major social event will be held in Glyndon Community Centre on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 2pm - 5.30pm. As with any other event, details can be obtained from Mickey or Sarah.

The Project is also hoping to establish a youth group and a womens group, and would welcome any young person or any woman to come along for information. It is hoped these groups will provide a forum for the different sections of the Irish community to express their needs and gain support in fulfilling them.

Another interesting scheme in progress is the making of a video of the history of the Irish Community in this Borough past and present. Even if interested people have no experience in making videos they are welcome to come along and take part as



Enthusiasm is more important than experience.

The next major social event is a Ceili this will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November in Glyndon Community Centre from 8.00pm - 12.00 midnight. St Colmille Ceili Band will be playing and a great night is promised. Tickets will soon be available from the workers and the secretary Jimmy Doyle or any other member of the Management Committee. Unfortunately a limited number of tickets will be available so hurry!.

It is hoped to organise various social events in the near future so watch out for advertising.